



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
Coastal Protection and Restoration Division

NOAA CPRD Program Waste Site Fact Sheet

Site Name: Mare Island Naval Shipyard

Site Location: Vallejo, CA

Congressional District: CA-07 **EPA Region:** 9

Site Description: Mare Island is a former naval shipyard in Solano County, CA. The facility was established in 1854 and closed in 1996. Activities at the former base included ship and submarine building, overhaul, repair and refueling of vessels, and munitions production and storage. The shipyard drains to both San Pablo Bay and Mare Island Strait. A variety of industrial contaminants have been found in soils and groundwater at Mare Island, including metals, PCBs, solvents, anti-fouling agents, pesticides, unexploded ordnance, and radioactive materials. Numerous species of fish and marine mammals use the area around Mare Island for habitat, including herring, endangered winter run Chinook salmon, striped bass, and steelhead, which have been proposed for listing as endangered. Various "operable units" of the base are in different stages of the cleanup process.

NOAA Activities to Date: NOAA is an active participant in the environmental assessment and cleanup activities at Mare Island. As a natural resource trustee agency, NOAA's goal is to ensure that the fish, marine mammals, and coastal habitat at Mare Island are protected by the cleanup actions. For the past year, NOAA's primary efforts at the former shipyard have been focused on the ecological risk assessment work. The Navy will collect and analyze samples in 1997 from both onshore areas and offshore sediments for the purpose of determining whether chemicals in the water, soils and sediments pose a risk to ecological resources. NOAA worked closely with the Navy, USEPA, and the State of California to design efficient sampling plans and to choose appropriate assessment techniques. Buried unexploded ordnance and other site-specific factors have made the sampling and assessment work at this base particularly challenging. The next steps will be to oversee the field sampling work, and to help the Navy interpret the resulting data.

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